
Minutes of the meeting of the SELEP Investment Panel, held in High House Production Park Vellacott Close, Purfleet, Essex, RM19 1RJ on Friday, 28th June 2019

Present:

Chris Brodie	Chairman
Cllr Paul Carter	Kent County Council
Cllr Rodney Chambers	Medway Council
Cllr David Finch	Essex County Council
Cllr Keith Glazier	East Sussex County Council
Cllr Ron Woodley	Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
Cllr Rob Gledhill	Thurrock Council
Stewart Drew	TES business representative
Perry Glading	Opportunity South Essex business representative
Jo James	Kent Chambers of Commerce (KMEP business representative)
Geoff Miles	Maidstone Studios (KMEP business representative)
Graham Peters	Team East Sussex business representative
David Rayner	Birkett Long (Essex business representative)
Graham Razey	East Kent College (Further Education)

ALSO PRESENT

Iwona Bainbridge
 Cllr Tony Ball
 Suzanne Bennett
 Adam Bryan
 Lee Burchill
 Jake Cartmell

Kim Cole

Richard Dawson

David Hughes

Jessica Jagpal

Joel John

Ian Lewis

Stephanie Mitchener

Charlotte Moody

Rhiannon Mort

Lorna Norris

Alex Riley

Tim Rignall

Having signed the attendance book

SELEP

Essex County Council

SELEP

SELEP

Kent County Council

Steer

Essex County Council (legal representative for the Accountable Body)

East Sussex County Council

Kent County Council

Medway Council

Essex County Council

OSE

Essex County Council (s151 representative for the Accountable Body)

Essex County Council

SELEP

Essex County Council

SELEP

Southend Borough Council

Lisa Siggins	Essex County Council
Stephen Taylor	Thurrock Borough Council
Amy Wharton	SELEP

1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The following apologies were received:

- Councillor Kevin Bentley, Essex County Council (substituted by Councillor David Finch)
- Professor Anthony Forster, University of Essex

The Chairman conducted the welcome and confirmed the meeting is held in private session.

2 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th March were agreed as a correct record. It was pointed out that Stewart Drew, De La Warr Pavilion should have been recorded as having attended that meeting.

4 Single Pipeline Development and the process of developing a single pipeline

The Chair reminded the Investment Panel that this process started back in June 2018 when the SELEP Strategic Board agreed the process and criteria for the assessment of projects. Following the SELEP 'Deep Dive' there was a recommendation that, SELEP should take steps to satisfy themselves that any underspend at a federated level is reallocated to the most promising and best value for money projects. This should be based on the strongest projects, regardless of the area they are in. As outlined in the Annual Conversation letter, the Investment Panel should prioritise pipeline projects to ensure that underspends are redistributed in the most effective way possible.

In response to the findings of the Deep Dive, on 16 March 2018, the Strategic Board agreed to implement the recommendations of the review. This included a decision to, "agree to establish and maintain a single pipeline of priority projects which will be used to identify the projects which utilise underspends in the event that it becomes available".

The Chair stated that there has been an overwhelming response to this call for projects and a considerable amount of work has been undertaken by local areas in developing project proposals. He reaffirmed his aspiration that this meeting ensures the process is fair and based fully on technical merit, with the strongest projects supported so that investment of this public sector funding yields maximum return, impacting positively on jobs, housing and skills, as demanded by central government. The outcomes of this meeting would be publicly available.

Rhiannon Mort advised the Panel that no solution had been found to the funding

issues regarding A28 Chart Road project. Consequently the £7.371m unspent LGF in that respect can be added to the total LGF available for reinvestment by the Panel, increasing the total available to £15,157,708.

5. Outcome of Independent Technical Assessment

Jake Cartmell from Steer, as the Independent Technical Evaluator, informed the Panel that a significant number of bids had been received. He explained what the sifting process involved and the relevant assessment criteria.

The Panel proceeded to discuss the ranking process, with concerns being expressed with regards thereto and the timetable involved. Rhiannon Mort explained the process and the importance of engagement with relevant partners. In response to concerns about the length of time required for funding decisions to be taken, Rhiannon confirmed that some solutions may be available, such as increased frequency of, or different timings of, Accountability Board meetings.

The Panel proceeded to discuss the prioritised LGF3b pipeline of projects as were set out in Appendix 3 of the report.

Both Councillor Carter and Geoff Miles spoke in support of the Kent and Medway Medical School project and encouraged the Panel to agree to the reprioritisation thereof.

Stewart Drew spoke in support of the smaller creative workspace project on the list and stressed the importance thereof. Graham Razy spoke in support of skills-based projects, feeling that it was hard to compare such with transport-based projects.

Councillor Finch suggested that the University of Essex Phase 3 Parkside project could be split into two phases. The first phase of the project was prioritised by the Panel for £3m as part of the initial £15.158m LGF currently available (this part is referred to as the University of Essex Parkside Phase 3). The Panel agreed that the second phase would remain on the ranked pipeline to receive LGF should additional underspend become available. This second phase is referred to as the University of Essex Parkside Phase 4. Councillor Finch agreed that Essex County Council would underwrite the remaining £2m LGF sought by the University in advance of any additional LGF becoming available to support phase 4 of the project.

Following robust conversation, it was agreed to increase the ranking of the Kent and Medway Medical School project.

Similar offers were made by members of the Investment Panel to phase other projects. This included the phasing of the following other projects:

- Exceat Bridge – Phase 1 to £1,500,000 LGF and Phase 2 to £610,579 LGF;
- Southend Town Centre - Phase 1 to £867,708 LGF and Phase 2 to £632,292 LGF
- Kent and Medway Medical School – Phase 1 to £4,000,000 and Phase 2 to £4,000,000.

6. Recommendations

It was **Resolved** to:

Agree that the LGF3b projects set out in Table 1 below are prioritised for investment utilising the £15.158m LGF currently available.

Agree the remaining eight projects which were supported by the Federated Boards, but not prioritised for the initial £15.158m LGF available, will now form the LGF pipeline. This pipeline is set out in Table 2 below.

Table 1 LGF3b projects prioritised for investment utilising the £1.158m LGF currently available

	Project	Federated Area	LGF Ask	Cumulative total
Projects supported by Investment Panel	M2 J5 Improvements	KMEP	£ 1,600,000	£ 1,600,000
	Bexhill Creative Workspace	East Sussex	£ 960,000	£ 2,560,000
	Kent and Medway Medical School Phase 1	KMEP	£ 4,000,000	£ 6,560,000
	Exceat Bridge Replacement Phase 1	East Sussex	£ 1,500,000	£ 8,060,000
	Tilbury Riverside	OSE	£ 2,360,000	£ 10,420,000
	Southend Town Centre Phase 1	OSE	£ 867,708	£ 11,287,708
	Basildon Innovation Warehouse	OSE	£ 870,000	£ 12,157,708
	University of Essex Parkside Phase 3	Greater Essex	£ 3,000,000	£ 15,157,708

Table 2 Pipeline of LGF projects

	Project	Federated Area	LGF Ask	Cumulative total
Ranked order of projects to progress should additional LGF underspend become available	University of Essex Parkside Phase 4	Greater Essex	£ 2,000,000	£ 17,157,708
	Southend Town Centre Phase 2	OSE	£ 632,292	£ 17,790,000
	Kent and Medway Medical School Phase 2	KMEP	£ 4,000,000	£ 21,790,000
	Exceat Bridge Replacement Phase 2	East Sussex	£ 610,579	£ 22,400,579
	Eastbourne Fisherman's Quayside & Infrastructure Development Project	East Sussex	£ 1,080,000	£ 23,480,579
	New Construction Centre, Chelmsford	Greater Essex	£ 1,295,200	£ 24,775,779
	Colchester Grow-on Space - Queen Street	Greater Essex	£ 3,777,451	£ 28,553,230
	NIAB	KMEP	£ 1,750,000	£ 30,303,230

If/when sufficient additional LGF is identified to fund the next project on this ranked list then this project will be able to progress to the Accountability Board for funding approval. Updates on any unallocated LGF will be provided to the Accountability and Strategic Board at each meeting, and the scheme promoter for the next project in line for funding will be informed. Over time, if sufficient underspend is identified to support all of the priorities shown in this pipeline, the Federated Boards will again be asked to consider their top priorities and the Investment Panel will be reconvened to agree the next priorities across SELEP to be funded.

7 Meeting Close

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.55 p.m.

Chairman